

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00

STR-04 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 /075 W

-----292000Z 023143 /46

R 290905Z MAR 77

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7485

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJ: PRC CROP CONDITIONS

1. SUMMARY: CROPS IN SOUTHERN HOPEI PROVINCE  
GENERALLY GOOD WITH SOME EVIDENCE OF INADEQUATE  
MOISTURE IN EXTREME SOUTH. HONAN AND HUPEI  
EXHIBIT ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS.  
LITTLE EVIDENCE OF DROUGHT IN HUNAN.

2. USLO OFFICER TRAVELED FROM PEKING TO  
CHANGSHA AND RETURN TO OBSERVE CROP CONDITIONS  
BETWEEN MARCH 18 AND 27.

3. WHEAT IN AREA OF PEKING SOUTH TO PAOTING,  
HOPEI IS IN GOOD CONDITION EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL  
UNIRRIGATED FIELDS. WHEAT ABOUT 1 TO 1.5 INCHES

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TALL.

4. FROM PAOTING TO SHIHCHIACHUANG WHEAT GENERALLY  
GOOD BUT WITH SOME WIND EROSION AND A FEW FIELDS  
WITH POOR STANDS.

5. AROUND SHIHCHIACHUANG AND SOUTH TO HAN TAN,

HOPEI WHEAT MOSTLY GREEN AND WELL GROWN WITH ONLY OCCASIONAL FIELD WITH POOR STAND.

6. BETWEEN HAN TAN AND ANYANG, HONAN WHEAT VERY GOOD AND 1.5 TO 2 INCHES TALL.

7. WHEAT IN LIN HSIEN, HONAN VERY GOOD: HOWEVER COMMUNE REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT WHEAT NOT AS GOOD AS LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF COLDER WINTER AND LESS RAIN.

8. IN AREA ANYANG TO HSIN HSIANG, MOST WHEAT SHOWED GOOD GROTH, ABOUT 3 INCHES TALL. SPRING SOWN GRAINS UP TO GOOD STAND. MOST OF RAPE CROP IN GOOD CONDITION. SCATTERED POOR FIELDS OF WHEAT AND RAPE APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN WATERED.

9. MOVING FROM HSIN HSIANG TO CHENGCHOU, CROP CONDITIONS DETERIORATED, ESPECIALLY ON VERY SANDY SOILS. THROUGHOUT THE AREA IN GOOD FIELDS WHEAT WAS LUSH GREEN AND 3 TO 3.5 INCHES TALL. RAPE WAS WELL GROWN. BUT WHERE IRRIGATION HAD BEEN INADEQUATE, BOTH RAPE AND WHEAT SHOWED THIN STANDS AND POOR GROWTH.

10. ACCORDING TO CTS GUIDE, CHENGCHOU HAD HAD NO SNOW OR RAIN FOR THE LAST FIVE WEEKS AND WAS VERY DRY, BUT LAND NEAR THE YELLOW RIVER HAD HAD ADEQUATE IRRIGATION. HOWEVER, SOUTH TOWARD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HSUCHANG, THE SOIL IS VERY SANDY AND THERE IS APPARENTLY INADEQUATE IRRIGATION WATER. SOME WELL-IRRIGATED FIELDS OF WHEAT AND RAPE WERE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION, BUT MORE THAN HALF HAD POOR STANDS AND LACKED GOOD COLOR. BLOWING AND HAD DAMAGED SOME FIELDS.

11. FROM HSUCHANG TO LOHO, WHERE ALMOST 80 PERCENT OF LAND IS IN WHEAT, ONLY ABOUT ONE THIRD OF ACREAGE WAS GOOD. THE REMAINDER IS FAIR TO POOR.

12. ABOUT ONE HALF OF WHEAT BETWEEN LOHO AND CHUMATIEN IS IN GOOD CONDITION. THE REMAINDER IS UNEVEN IN GROWTH, STAND AND COLOR.

13. CROP CONDITIONS IMPROVED SHARPLY MOVING FROM CHUMATIEN TOWARD HSINYANG, HONAN. WHEAT IN LOW-LAND NEAR HUAI RIVER WELL DEVELOPED AND ABOUT 5 INCHES TALL. WHEAT ON HIGHER LANDS LESS UNIFORM AND

OF POORER QUALITY. CLOVER GROWTH IN PADDY FIELDS WAS GOOD.

14. IN THE NARROW VALLEYS IN MOUNTAINS ALONG THE HONAN - HUPEH BORDER, CONDITION OF WHEAT AND RAPE CROP WAS EXCELLENT. WHEAT UNIFORMLY 5 - 6 INCHES TALL. PADDY FIELDS HAD VERY GOOD GROWTH OF GREEN MANURE.

15. EFFECTS OF DROUGHT EVIDENT IN WUHAN AREA. SOME FIELDS OF WHEAT, RAPE AND BROAD BEANS WERE VERY GOOD WITH WHEAT 8 INCHES TALL. CROPS IN OTHER NEARBY FIELDS WERE IN POOR CONDITION. A FEW FIELDS OF BARLEY WERE POOR WITH VERY SMALL GRAIN HEADS. PADDY FIELDS GENERALLY IN GOOD CONDITION.

16. IN THE HIGHLANDS IN SOUTHERN HUPEH AND SOUTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO YUEHYANG, HUNAN WHEAT CROP LOOKED GOOD WITH WHEAT 8 TO 9 INCHES TALL. RAPE AND BROAD BEAN CROPS WERE GOOD. LUSH GROWTH OF CLOVER IN PADDY FIELDS. CROPS ON SOME SLOPING HILLSIDES FIELDS WERE IN ONLY FAIR CONDITION.

17. BETWEEN YUEHYANG AND CHANGSHA WHEAT, BROAD BEAN AND RAPE CROPS WERE VERY GOOD. HOWEVER, MOST OF LAND IN THIS AREA IS DEVOTED TO PADDY FIELDS WHICH WERE OSTLY IN EXCELLENT CONDITION WITH VERY HEAVY GROWTH OF GREEN MANURE.

18. REPRESENTATIVE AT COMMUNE NEAR CHANGSHA STATED THAT CLOVER GROWTH IN PADDY LAND WAS NOT AS GOOD AS LAST YEAR DUE TO COLD WINTER WEATHER. GATES

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**TAGS:** EAGR, CH  
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